



Friday, August 11

The Weekender

Hungering and Thirsting

I just began a book, *You Are What You Love*, by James K. A. Smith. I have read the first third and as I began, I realized I was engaged because I was marking it up as I read. It wasn't obvious that I would be marking it up because Dr. Smith is a philosopher and a philosophy teacher at Calvin College.

I put an * at sentences that I thought were worth remembering. There were a lot of *s. But the theme of the book seems to be pretty simple. In the preface Smith makes several statements that are foundational ideas in the book. Here are two of them:

You are what you love.

You worship what you love.

So, if you and I are going to grow in our relationship with Jesus, we must realize that “discipleship is more a matter of hungering and thirsting than of knowing and believing.” We usually approach discipleship as something that grows through thinking and learning. That's often the underlying assumption of Sunday school. Learn some stuff in the Bible and you'll begin to change.

I don't think that's right. Information is rarely transformational. I know that I haven't changed that way. But there are ways that work, that lead to change. Smith focuses on practices and habits to implement in worship and the home, but in this Weekender I'd like to focus on some things that I have found work.

Community: By being a part of a community of Christians I see how Christian husbands love their wives. I see how Christian parents discipline and love their children. I see older Christians who have sustained their faith through many hardships. They model faithfulness for me. A major way I can be transformed is to see faith lived out. I need examples. I need to be with people who are living out their faith. I don't change on my own.

Honesty: A spiritual mentor asked me to do something that they do in AA: a “searching and fearless moral inventory.” I wrote down all the people with whom I remember having problems. I listed people I fought with as a child; girls I went out with and the relationship didn't end well; church members I disagreed with; groups with agendas I disagreed with; things I'd done that I knew were wrong. It was a long list. There was one common denominator: me! I had always believed I was a sinner, but it wasn't until I began to list my sins and my problems that I saw that I *really* was a sinner in need of forgiveness and mercy. It helped me see more clearly that I *needed* to change—and I began to change.

Accountability: I have also changed when I have agreed to tell the truth about myself to other people. I talk to people on a regular basis and confess my sins and problems. It helps me be honest, but also get things out in the open so I can deal with them—repent of them. It keeps me from getting too deep into sin—and leads to change.

I want you to notice that these are habits and actions that I've practiced that lead to change. I am "hungering and thirsting" for different things because of new habits and actions. What habits and actions do you have and how are they shaping your life? Are you becoming more like Jesus?
See you Sunday!

In Christ,

John

**This Sunday in Worship
August 13
10th Sunday After Pentecost**

Anthems:

Here I Am, Lord (8:30 a.m.)

Let Me Be (11:00 a.m.)

Sermon:

Faith AND Works (James 2:14-26)

Rev. John Barnes preaching (8:30, 11:00 a.m.)

Rev. Allyson Lawrence preaching (9:45 a.m.)

2nd Annual Youth Lock-In TODAY, August 11

TODAY, 10 p.m.



Join us for the 2nd Annual Youth Lock-in! We will gather at FFUMC tonight, August 11, and travel to Cornerstone UMC for worship from 10 p.m. to 11 p.m. with the Rev. Sam Halverson from the North Georgia Conference. After worship we will head to Malibu Grand Prix where we will enjoy a night of unlimited go-cart races, arcade games, bumper boats, and mini golf! The cost for this awesome outing is \$25 per student. That includes unlimited access to all of the fun and arcades at Malibu, two slices of pizza and unlimited drinks for each student throughout the night. Contact Pastor Allyson with questions at alanrence@fayettevillefirst.com.

Meet New Ministers and Families at Reception This Sunday

August 13, Noon, Fellowship Hall



Our Staff Parish Relations Committee invites you to meet our new ministers, Rev. John Barnes and Rev. Michael Phillips, and their families at a welcome reception on August 13 in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the 11 a.m. service. Come introduce yourself for the first time or reintroduce yourself and welcome them all to FFUMC.

New GriefShare Sessions Begin Monday August 14 through November 13, Mondays



GriefShare is a program where caring individuals walk with others through the journey of grief. Facilitated by Carol and Bill Webb, classes meet Mondays starting August 14 for a 13-week session from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in room B355. Follow the GriefShare link at griefshare.org for session topics and descriptions. Those who have completed GriefShare are invited to a monthly group follow-up meeting called Healing Hearts on the third Monday of each month from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, contact the Webbs, 404-234-1056 or carolbass@bellsouth.net.

Moms Back to School Brunch: BooHoo or Yahoo!?

Monday, August 14, 9:15-11 a.m., Fellowship Hall Room A40

BooHoo!!!



YaHoo!!!



Inviting moms with kids ages preschool to high school – come and join other moms as we share our Boo Hoo and our Yahoo! moments with this year's back to school adventures. Put your feet up, enjoy fresh coffee and juice, and a breakfast made just for you. And connect with other moms as we share our joys and our frustrations with the new school year – or just sit in silence where no one is yelling, "MOM, MOM, MOM!!!" Questions? Email Allyson Lawrence at <mailto:alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com> or Kathryn Thaxton at kathrynthaxton@gmail.com.

DivorceCare Begins Tuesday, August 15

August 15 through November 14, Tuesdays, C270



Separation and divorce can be a painful and stressful experience. It's a confusing time when many may feel isolated and have lots of questions about issues they have never faced before. DivorceCare groups meet weekly to help face these challenges and move forward. Each session includes a video seminar with experts on divorce and recovery subjects followed by group discussion and support. Kevin McCormick will facilitate this new group on Tuesdays, August 15 to November 14, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in room C270. Co-facilitators are Susan McCormick and Phyllis Williamson. No cost. For more information or to register, contact Kevin McCormick at 770-891-1177.

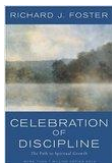
Six For Supper: Getting to Know You!

Sign Up by August 31



Six for Supper is a great way to form new friendships, get to know others better, meet new people in our church, and deepen relationships with one another. New groups will be forming soon for the months of September, October, and November. How does it work? Three couples (or 2 couples and 2 singles or any similar variation) are grouped together for a three-month period. Over the course of the three months, the participants will gather at each other's homes or at a restaurant to share a meal together. Get details and signup at onrealm.org, fayettevillefirst.com or contact the church office at admin@fayettevillefirst.com. Let's have a party for supper!

Celebration of Discipline Group Meets August 16



You are invited to participate in the Celebration of Discipline living group Wednesday, August 16, at 6:15 in Room C250. This group is moving through 12 spiritual disciplines in 2017 and will be discussing *submission*. Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence, alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com, with any questions or to acquire a book.

Meet Rev. Susan Landry, Our New District Superintendent



Four North Georgia Conference districts will hold installation services for their new District Superintendents next month. Bishop Sue will attend each of the services and the incoming DS will preach. Our own Lagrange district welcomes Rev. Susan Landry who we will install as District Superintendent on Sunday, August 27, at 3 p.m. at LaGrange First UMC. A reception will follow in the Methodist Ministry Center at LaGrange First. The church is located at 401 Broad Street in LaGrange. All are invited.

Time to Rise Against Hunger, **Sign up for Lunch by SUNDAY**

August 20, Noon to 1 p.m., Fellowship Hall, 1-3 Family Life Center



Get ready to pack 30,000 meals to Rise Against Hunger on August 20. This yearly meal packing event is a favorite at FFUMC as we gather with our church family and friends and pack 30,000 meals in two hours. Last year our meals went to Maputo, Mozambique, as part of an emergency drought response. Who knows who will be served this year?!



Part 1 - Sign Up for Lunch: Following worship and before we begin packing, you are invited to a church family lunch in the Fellowship Hall from Chicken

Salad Chick. There is no cost for the meal, but reservations are greatly appreciated **by August 13.**

Here are four ways to sign up for the Fellowship Lunch: 1) Drop a form from Sunday's bulletin in the offering plate OR 2) Sign up through your FFUMC Realm account as an event OR 3) Email our administrative office at admin@fayettevillefirst.com OR 4) Call the church office at 770-461-4313.

Part 2 - Sign Up for Meal Packing Event: Meet at the Family Life Center at 1 p.m. to begin packing our 30,000 meals! You'll need to register for the packing event (separate from lunch reservation) in order to participate. Rise Against Hunger greatly appreciates your signing up for the packing event online at <http://events.stophungernow.org/FayettevilleFUMC2017>. You may sign up with Rise Against Hunger for the packing portion on the day of the event.

Travel with SAGE to Dickey's Peach Farm



Join with our SAGE group (55+) as they go to Dickey Peach Farm and Concord Café on August 24, 2017. Cost: \$2 transportation, plus lunch and gifts. The group will depart the church at 8:30 a.m. and return around 2 p.m. Sign up and pay in the church office.

Appreciation Lunch Occurs Tuesday, August 29



All Summer Lunch volunteers are invited to an Appreciation Lunch on Tuesday, August 29, at 12 p.m. The location is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 101 S. Peachtree Pkwy, Peachtree City.

United Methodist Men Resume Meetings on September 5



All are invited to the first meeting of the fall for the United Methodist Men on Tuesday, September 5, at 6:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. UMM members bring a dish for the pot-luck meal. Come learn more about the group and what their plans are for service and mission.

Questions? Contact Bobby Hamil, bhamil6@gmail.com.

“Creative Faith” Study begins September 11



A new Bible study will begin this fall called “Creative Faith” facilitated by Rev. Allyson Lawrence. The first four-week session will run September 9, 18, 25 and October 2 from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. and will focus on three women in the Bible who found their place in God’s story through the ancestry of Jesus. The second session will run October 16, 23, 30 and November 6 with a focus on Mary in preparation for Advent. All are invited. For more information, contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence at alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com.

“Exploring the Way” Study begins September 5

Why do some people, perhaps even many, proclaim themselves “spiritual but not religious”? What does that mean? What is meant by the idea of a spiritual journey? “Exploring the Way” will help us understand and deepen our experience of God as we ask the questions of issues and faith in a safe place. Together, we will discover (or rediscover) a way of grace, joy, and peace – the way of Christ himself. Join Rev. Allyson Lawrence on Tuesday mornings from September 5 through October 17 from 10 a.m. to noon. For more information, contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence at alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com.

Wednesday Night Suppers Resume September 6



We will once again gather each Wednesday in the Family Life Center for Wednesday Night Suppers beginning September 6. Look for permanent and weekly reservation information next week. September menus are posted at fayettevillefirst.com.

Upcoming at Fayetteville First UMC

Get more information on these and other events at www.fayettevillefirst.com or 770-461-4313.

- August 13 — Welcome reception for Revs. John Barnes and Michael Phillips and families in the Fellowship Hall after the 11 a.m. service
- August 13 — Acolyte Training, 3 p.m., Sanctuary
- August 14 — First Day of FFUMC Preschool
- August 14 — BooHoo Yahoo!! Drop-in Brunch for Mothers, 9:15 – 11 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- August 16 — Celebration of Discipline Group, 6:15 p.m., Room C-250,
Discussion: Submission
- August 20 — Rise Against Hunger Food Packing Event, 12 p.m. lunch, 1 p.m. packing
- August 31 — SafeHouse Outreach, Dinner preparation, meal and worship,
Contact Randy Riddell, 770-365-6824
- September 3 — Sunday School Promotion Sunday: Students move up to the next grade for Sunday school on this day at 9:45 a.m. Come find your place in Sunday school!
- September 3 — Third Grade Bible Presentation: Our rising third graders will be presented with their own Bible as a gift from the church at the 11 a.m. service
- September 6 — Wednesday night suppers and regular programming begin! Look for Fall Program brochures in the Welcome Center soon!
- September 21 — UMW Unit Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Speaker: Luci Hough, Executive Director, Fayette Pregnancy Resource Center, Reservations due by Sunday, September 17 with UMW circle chairs or Dottie Gray, dottiegray@comcast.net.

Financial Update as of August 7

Month-to-Date Receipts: \$ 36,562.32

Year-to-Date Receipts: \$ 832,851.22

2017 Budget: \$1,616,146.00

Year-to-Date Shortfall: \$ 142,951.02